

REASONS

Why the New Water Works Should Be Adopted.

A Few Facts Submitted By the Board of Trustees for the Voters of Nevada City to Consider.

The question submitted to the voters of Nevada City, at the Election to be held on the 28th of October, 1895, is, probably, the most important one ever presented to them for their consideration:

The first thing to determine is, whether there is any need for a new system of Public Water Works in Nevada City.

The fact that the present system has been in operation for 35 years, without any change in the old cast-iron pipes, or any improvements to speak of, would almost be reason enough for an affirmative answer.

But it is a well-known fact that the mains are too small, and so badly corroded that they are wholly inadequate to supply the amount of water necessary during the Summer Months and at large fires, even in those parts of the City where the mains extend; and in the many parts of the City where there are no mains there is practically no fire protection: and to get any other benefits, the residents of those outlying parts of the City have to lay, at their own expense, long lines of pipe to each get the privilege of paying Mrs. Huntington \$20.80 per year to supply them enough water for ordinary domestic purposes.

A few months since our efficient Fire Department, in the interest of the public, asked the Board of City Trustees to have about 20 new fire hydrants put in; but when the Board looked over the ground, while they heartily approved of the request of the Fire Department, they found that out of the whole number of hydrants asked for only one could be put in, as there were no mains or pipes in the present water system to which to attach the others.

The lack of a sufficient water supply in the present system has been the direct cause of great losses by fire.

Think what a sacrifice of property would have been saved the time the M. E. Church took fire had the present Water Works furnished a decent supply of water.

And again, at the great Plaza fire, Gehrig's brewery and the Hall were destroyed because when two hydrants on Broad street were being used there was no water on Sacramento St. for Judge Walling and his helpers there to fight back the fire. Probably \$10,000 worth of property would have been saved at that fire had there been even a moderately good supply of water. And the same night when J. E. Isaac's house on Washington Street was on fire, the most convenient hydrant to attach to was the one at the Court House! Think of having to run a line of fire-hose over 1,000 feet right in the **very center of the City**, because there are no mains nearer to which to attach a hydrant. A fire now would find the City in the same condition as existed at the times referred to—with the exception that there is a little more rust in the pipes and consequently a less supply of water.

Then it is safe to say that the present Water Works, by reason of the smallness of the mains, cannot supply enough water for Nevada City at the times when a large supply is needed.

It is old, rusty and incomplete and does not in any manner meet the requirements of the New Nevada City.

And yet for this old dilapidated, out-of-date system, Mrs. Huntington demanded from the City of Nevada, the sum of \$50,000 cash, only a few years since; and if it was worth \$50,000 then, now when our population has increased nearly one-third, it must be much more valuable to her.

Let us, then, take for granted, what ev-

ery intelligent citizen knows is a fact, that Nevada City **DOES** need a better and more complete Water System, than the present one.

What have we to offer in place of the present system?

We offer one of the most complete, comprehensive and efficient systems which was ever designed by the experience, knowledge and ingenuity of a most competent corps of Practical Engineers.

A system ample to supply a city of 10,000 inhabitants with abundance of water for domestic, fire and manufacturing purposes; complete in every detail, and extended to every point within the corporate limits of the City.

A double feed system with reservoirs on both sides of the City, each connected with every line of pipe. This is the only thoroughly efficient system which can be built cheaply in a City situated as is Nevada City.

Large mains, and so distributed that it will form a regular gridiron of pipe, thereby securing with the double feed system an inexhaustible supply of water at every point and at all times.

A pressure that is more than ample in even the highest portions of the City—235 feet pressure at the Plaza with enough water to supply 8 fire hydrants at that point all open at once—75 feet pressure at the Catholic Cemetery, the highest point in the City, and water to supply 4 hydrants.

Provision is made in this estimate for the new system, for 50 new Fire Hydrants. Think of it, Firemen and Property-Owners, under the new system we will have over twice as many hydrants as we now have. Not a point in the City but will then be in close proximity to a fire hydrant. Lost Hill, Prospect Hill, Long street, Clay St., Nimrod St., Zion St., upper Coyote St. and other outlying parts of the City will then have some of the protection from fires for which they have been paying taxes in the past but not getting on account of the present inadequate system.

Provision is also made in the estimates to attach each water consumer with the mains **FREE OF COST**—that is, the City will tap all the mains without cost to the water buyer.

The cost of the new Water System is reasonable when you consider what you are getting.

There will be no exorbitant tax in any One Year, as the bonds will run for 40 years. The first years the tax will be the highest, but will decrease year by year.

The rates can be reduced to 25 cents a week to families. This would be a direct saving of \$7.80 per year to each family, which is more than two-thirds of the small property owners pay for all their City taxes each year.

After making this saving direct to every family and Water Consumer, the City will still be in a position to make out of a 25 cents a week rate, not less than \$2500 clear each year, which will be devoted to the use of the City, thereby reducing your taxes by that amount.

If the rates should be left the same as they now are there will be no need to increase the tax levy at all.

If reduced to 25 cents a week there will be a small increase for a few years only.

Mrs. Huntington collects from the people of Nevada City each year \$4810.17 over and above the cost of the water and the necessary expense of distribution. This in 40 years would amount to \$192,406.80 paid to Mrs. Huntington, for which you get nothing. Would it not be better to use a por-

tion of that sum to build a system of Public Water Works, and keep the balance of over \$60,000 in your pockets?

Any one should be able to see the difference: In 40 years you pay Mrs. Huntington of New York about \$200,000 over the costs of water, etc., and at the end of that time you have absolutely nothing to show for it. On the other hand, in 40 years you pay for and own a thorough and complete system of Public Water Works, and in doing so you have saved over \$60,000—and this without counting the great saving from fires, by reason of the complete system that is placed at the disposal of the Fire Department.

Another important consideration for property owners is the **reduction that will be made in the rates of Insurance.** A complete water system with large mains always causes a reduction in Insurance rates—and Nevada City will be no exception. The rates now are almost robbery, but as they are based on business principles you cannot expect to get any material permanent reduction until you improve the Water Supply of the City.

When the New System is completed you are in a position to demand and to get a large reduction in your insurance rates.

You will have clean, fresh water flowing through new pipes, instead of the kind you now get. And provision is made in the new system for keeping the pipes cleaned out, by having an opening at every point where there is a sag in the mains. This alone to the health of the City is worth more than the costs of the whole works.

The Board of Trustees have been compelled to go to considerable necessary expense for surveying, for legal advice (as the law is very complicated), and for the holding of the Special Election. It lies with the voters to say whether this amount shall be wasted or not, for if the Public Water Works is beaten now, there can be no question that you will be called on by some other Board of Trustees to go to the same expense at another election, for **Nevada City cannot stand the present inefficient system much longer.**

The Board of Trustees are no more interested in this matter than any other five citizens, but as the representatives of City we have had to consider this subject, whether we would or not, and we have presented this matter to you, believing as we do that a vote against the new Public Water Works will be a vote against the best interests and the prosperity of the City, and that he who votes for it will be helping the City along to an era of prosperity, such as it has not had for many a day.

Remember, voters, if you are asked to sympathize with the owner of the present system, that if **justice had been done** the present Water Works would have been the property of the City of Nevada for the past fifteen years, according to the original contract.

Think well on it and vote for the general interests of the City, and for your own individual interests.

Signed:

D. S. BAKER,
A. GAULT,
J. F. HOOK,
J. C. RICH,
T. H. CARR,
Board of Trustees.